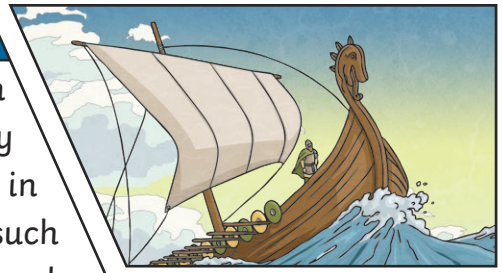
Key Vocabulary

Danegeld	"Paying the Dane". King Etherlred paid the Vikings 4500kg of silver to go home but they kept returning and were paid 22,000kg of silver in **Danegeld** altogther.
exile	To be sent away.
invade	To enter and occupy land.
kingdom	An area ruled by a king.
longship	A long, wooden, narrow boat used by the Vikings.
outlawed	Having all property taken away and no longer being able to live in the community.
pagans	A religion where many gods and goddesses are worshipped.
pillaged	To violently steal something.
raid	A surprise attack.
wergild	A payment system used to settle disputes between a criminal and the victim or their family.

The Early Vikings

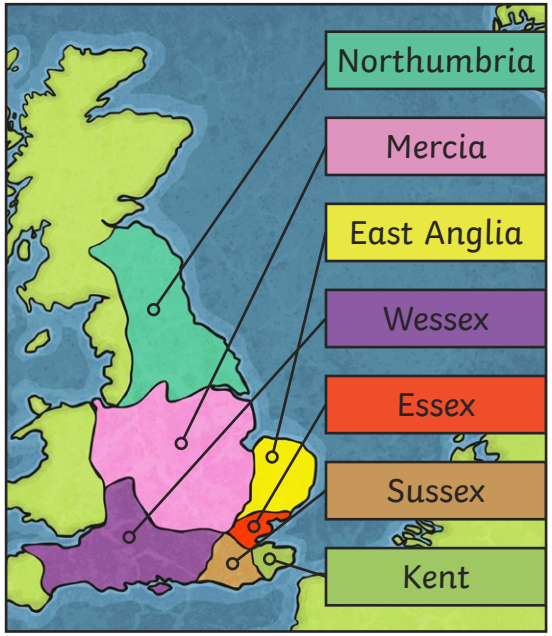
The Vikings came from the modern Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. They travelled in boats called **longships** and first arrived in Britain around AD 787. The Vikings **raided** places such as monasteries and **pillaged** expensive items to trade. They were looking for valuable goods like gold and jewels, imported foods and other useful materials.



The Vikings also wanted to claim land and tried to take over much of Britain. They **invaded** and settled in Scotland before heading south to places such as York. By AD 878 the Vikings had settled permanently in Britain.

Anglo-Saxon Kings

The kings of Anglo-Saxon Britain each ruled their own **kingdom** and the people in it. They fought to defend their **kingdom** or take control of other **kingdoms**. When the Anglo-Saxons first settled in Britain, there were seven **kingdoms**, but by AD 878 there was just one **kingdom** left (Wessex) as the others had been overrun by the Vikings. Many Anglo-Saxon kings tried to resist the Vikings and fought hard to keep control of their land. King Alfred the Great was the best known Anglo-Saxon king and the first to defeat the Vikings in battle.



Viking Life

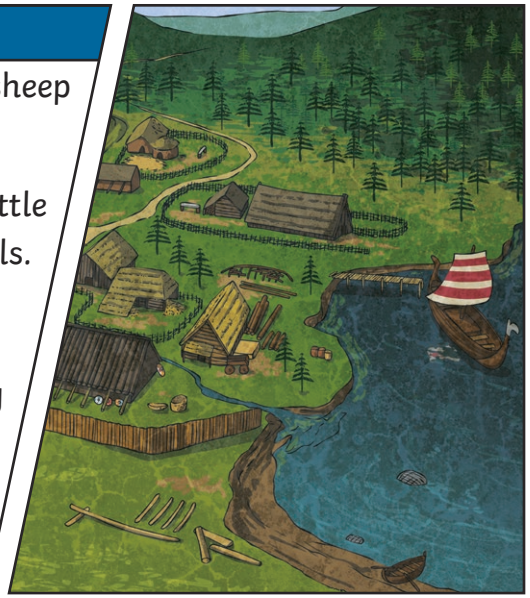
Farms - Vikings lived on farms and kept cows, pigs and sheep for milk, wool and meat.

Houses - Walls made of stone or wood. A straw roof. Wattle and daub (sticks and mud/dung) for the inside of the walls.

Jewellery - Worn to show off how rich a person was.

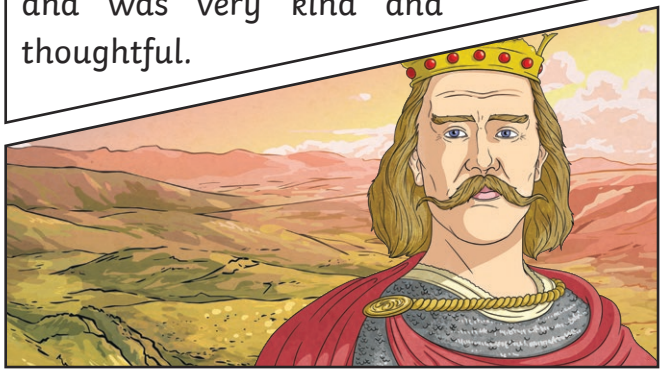
Pagans - Vikings arrived as **pagans** but eventually converted to Christianity.

Sagas - Vikings used rhyme to tell stories about adventures and battles against monsters.



The Last Anglo-Saxon Kings

AD 1042 – Edward the Confessor became King. He was known as 'the Confessor' because he led a very religious life and was very kind and thoughtful.



Anglo-Saxon Laws and Punishments

The Anglo-Saxon laws were very similar to some we have today, although the punishments were very different. These were often very brutal and would be carried in public to act as deterrents, to discourage others from committing such crimes. Stoning, whipping and **exile** were common punishments; as well as paying a fine (**wergild**), or receiving reparations in the form of hot or cold water ordeals.

AD 1066 – Harold II tried to stop Harald of Norway from invading England and killed him in the Battle of Stamford Bridge.

William, the Duke of Normandy, thought he should be king so came to fight Harold in the Battle of Hastings (AD 1066). Harold was shot through the eye with an arrow and died in the battle. William of Normandy, who became known as William the Conqueror, became King, bringing the Viking and Anglo-Saxon age to an end in AD 1066.

Viking Laws and Punishments

Viking laws were not written down but passed on by word of mouth. Punishments could include fines, being semi-**outlawed**, fighting to the death, or revenge on someone who has killed a family member.